

# Jared Polis

**Jared Schutz Polis** (/ˈpoʊlɪs/; born May 12, 1975) is an American politician, entrepreneur, and philanthropist serving as the 43rd governor of Colorado since January 2019. A member of the Democratic Party, he served one term on the Colorado State Board of Education from 2001 to 2007 and five terms as the United States Representative from Colorado's 2nd congressional district from 2009 to 2019. During his time in Congress, he was the only Democratic member of the libertarian conservative Liberty Caucus. He was elected governor of Colorado in 2018, defeating Republican nominee Walker Stapleton.

As an openly gay man, Polis has made history several times through his electoral success. In 2008, he became the first same-sex parent elected to the United States Congress. In 2018, he became the first openly gay person and second openly LGBT person (after Kate Brown of Oregon) elected governor of a state in the United States. He is also the first Jew to be elected governor of Colorado.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>

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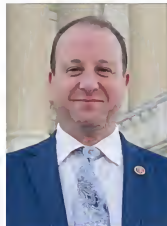
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## Jared Polis



**43rd Governor of Colorado**

**Incumbent**

**Assumed office**

January 8, 2019

**Lieutenant**  Dianne Primavera

**Preceded by**  John Hickenlooper

**Member of the  
U.S. House of Representatives  
from Colorado's 2nd district**

**In office**

January 3, 2009 – January 3, 2019

**Preceded by**  Mark Udall

**Succeeded by**  Joe Neguse

**Member of the  
Colorado State Board of  
Education  
from the at-large district**

**In office**

January 3, 2001 – January 3, 2007

**Preceded by**  Ben Alexander

**Succeeded by**  *Seat abolished*

### Personal details

**Born**  Jared Polis Schutz  
May 12, 1975  
Boulder, Colorado,  
U.S.

**Political party**  Democratic

**Domestic  
partner**  Marlon Reis

**Children**  2

**Mother**  Susan Polis

**Education**  Princeton  
University (AB)

**Net worth**  \$313.6 million  
(2015)<sup>[1]</sup>

**Website**  Government  
website (http://color

## Early life and education

Polis is the son of Stephen Schutz and Susan Polis Schutz, founders of greeting card and book publisher Blue Mountain Arts.<sup>[5]</sup> He was born at Boulder Community Hospital in Boulder, Colorado in 1975. He lived in San Diego, California as a high school student, graduating from La Jolla Country Day School in three years with multiple honors. He graduated from Princeton University with a B.A. in politics in 1996, writing a 157-page senior thesis, "Paradigm Shift: Politics in the Information Age", under the supervision of Carol M. Swain.<sup>[6]</sup> While at Princeton, Polis served as communications director of the undergraduate student government and was involved in other campus organizations, such as Model Congress and the Princeton Juggling Club.<sup>[7]</sup> In 2000, he legally changed his surname to his mother's to raise awareness for a fundraiser and because he simply "liked it better".<sup>[8]</sup>

## Business career

Polis co-founded American Information Systems (AIS), Inc., while still in college. AIS was an internet access provider and was sold in 1998. In 1996 he co-founded<sup>[9]</sup> a free electronic greeting card website, bluemountain.com, which was sold to Excite@Home in 1999 for \$430 million in stock and \$350 million in cash.<sup>[10][11]</sup>

In February 1998 Polis founded ProFlowers, an online florist, in La Jolla, California. In December of that year, economist Arthur Laffer began advising Polis and joined ProFlowers as a Director.<sup>[12]</sup> ProFlowers, later renamed Provide Commerce, Inc., went public on NASDAQ as PRVD on December 17, 2003. In 2005 Provide Commerce was acquired by media conglomerate Liberty Media Corporation for \$477 million.

Polis and other investors founded TechStars in Boulder, Colorado in 2006.<sup>[13]</sup>

During his tenure in Congress, Polis was among the wealthiest members of Congress, with a net worth estimated at over \$300 million.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Philanthropic career

In 2000 Polis founded the Jared Polis Foundation, whose mission is to "create opportunities for success by supporting educators, increasing access to technology, and strengthening our community."<sup>[14]</sup> Its main programs are the annual Teacher Recognition Awards;<sup>[15]</sup> the Community Computer Connection program,<sup>[16]</sup> which refurbishes and donates more than 3,500 computers a year to schools and nonprofit organizations; and the semi-annual Jared Polis Foundation Education Report. Polis has also founded two charter schools, one with multiple campuses across three states and a post-secondary school, the New America College, for at-risk students. In 2004 he established the New America School, a charter high school that primarily serves older immigrant youth ages 16–21 and has three campuses in Colorado, two in New Mexico<sup>[17]</sup> and one in Las Vegas, Nevada.<sup>[18]</sup> In 2005 Polis and Urban Peak co-founded the Academy of Urban Learning<sup>[19]</sup> in Denver to help youth at risk of becoming homeless or living in unstable living conditions.

Polis was named Outstanding Philanthropist for the 2006 National Philanthropy Day in Colorado. He has received many awards, including the Boulder Daily Camera's 2007 Pacesetter Award in Education;<sup>[20]</sup> the Kauffman Foundation Community Award;<sup>[21]</sup> the Denver *consul* general of Mexico "Ohtli";<sup>[22]</sup> the Martin Luther King Jr. Colorado Humanitarian Award; and the Anti-Defamation League's inaugural Boulder Community Builder Award.

At the time of his first election to Congress, Polis had founded a number of companies and was one of the 10 richest members of Congress.<sup>[23]</sup>

## Early political career

Together with Pat Stryker, Rutt Bridges, and Tim Gill, Polis was one of the four wealthy Coloradans—sometimes called the "Gang of Four"—who donate to liberal causes.<sup>[24]</sup>

### State Board of Education

In 2000 Polis was elected at-large as a member of the Colorado State Board of Education and served a single six-year term until January 2007, when the district was eliminated.<sup>[25]</sup> His election was one of the closest in Colorado history, as he defeated incumbent Ben Alexander by 90 votes out of 1.6 million cast.<sup>[26]</sup> During his term Polis served as both chairman and vice chairman of the board.<sup>[27][28][29]</sup>

### Ballot measures

In 2006 Polis served as co-chair of Coloradans for Clean Government, a committee that supported Amendment 41, a citizen-initiated ballot measure to ban gifts by registered lobbyists to government officials, establish a \$50 annual restriction on gift-giving from non-lobbyists, establish a two-year cooling-off period before former state legislators and statewide elected officials can begin lobbying, and create an independent ethics commission. In November 2006, 62.3% of Colorado voters approved the "Ethics in Government" constitutional amendment.<sup>[30]</sup>



Polis in 2002

In 2007 Polis co-chaired the "Building for Our Future" campaign that supported ballot question 3A in the Boulder Valley School District to issue \$296.8 million in bonds for the improvement and modernization of aging school facilities—the largest capital construction bond issue in the district's history and the largest school bond proposal in Colorado that year. In November 2006, 58% of Boulder Valley School District voters approved the measure.<sup>[31]</sup>

In 2014 Polis planned to champion two ballot measures to limit fracking in Colorado by banning drilling near schools and homes and empowering communities to pass their own rules. The measures were dropped after he reached a deal with Governor John Hickenlooper to create a task force. The absence of the initiatives was seen as a relief to vulnerable Democrats who would have had to take controversial stances on the issue.<sup>[32]</sup>

## Political career

### Elections

In 2008 Polis won a heavily contested Democratic primary election for Colorado's 2nd congressional district, and went on to win the general election on November 4 with 62% of the vote. He succeeded Mark Udall, who was elected to the United States Senate that year.

In 2010 Polis was reelected with 57% of the vote.<sup>[33][34]</sup>

In 2012, Polis ran uncontested in the Democratic primary and won reelection to Congress with 55% of the vote.<sup>[35]</sup>

In 2014 Polis won a fourth election to Congress with 57% of the vote.<sup>[36]</sup>

In 2016 Polis was reelected with 56.9% of the vote.<sup>[37]</sup>

In 2018 Polis announced his candidacy for governor of Colorado.<sup>[38]</sup> Polis was elected governor with 53.4% of the vote, defeating Republican nominee Walker Stapleton by approximately 11% and becoming the first openly gay person elected governor of any state.<sup>[39][40]</sup> (The first gay person to serve as a state governor was Jim McGreevey, the 52nd governor of New Jersey, who came out as gay in August 2004 after being elected.)<sup>[41]</sup>



Polis campaigning in 2008

### House of Representatives

#### Tenure

Polis was the Red to Blue program chair for the DCCC during the 2012 elections, helping recruit and raise money for Democratic candidates in competitive congressional districts.<sup>[42]</sup> Following the elections, he considered running for Vice-Chair of the House Democratic Caucus after then-chairman Xavier Becerra was term-limited.<sup>[43]</sup> The position ended up going to New York Congressman Joe Crowley.<sup>[44]</sup>

#### Committee assignments

In the 114th Congress Polis served on the following committees:<sup>[45]</sup>

- **Committee on Education and the Workforce**
  - Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training
  - Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions
- **Committee on Natural Resources**
  - Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
  - Subcommittee on Federal Lands
  - Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
- **Committee on Rules**
  - Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process



Polis during the 112th Congress

#### Caucus memberships

- Congressional Cannabis Caucus<sup>[46]</sup>
- Congressional Progressive Caucus<sup>[47]</sup>
- LGBT Equality Caucus (Co-Chair)
- Blockchain Caucus (Co-Chair)
- Mexico Caucus (Co-Chair)

- [Nepal Caucus \(Co-Chair\)](#)
- [Veterinary Medicine Caucus](#)<sup>[48]</sup>
- [New Democrat Coalition](#)<sup>[49]</sup>
- [Congressional Arts Caucus](#)<sup>[50]</sup>
- [Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus](#)<sup>[51]</sup>
- [NO PAC Caucus](#)<sup>[52]</sup>
- [Liberty Caucus](#)<sup>[53]</sup>
- [U.S.-Japan Caucus](#)<sup>[54]</sup>

### Legislation sponsored

The following is an incomplete list of legislation Polis introduced:

- [Lake Hill Administrative Site Affordable Housing Act](#), a bill that would require the Secretary of Agriculture to sell 40 acres of Forest Service land near Frisco, Colorado. Summit County, Colorado would use the land to build affordable housing.<sup>[55]</sup>
- [Affordable College Textbook Act](#)

### Governor of Colorado

#### Tenure

Polis was elected governor on November 6, 2018. Boldly Forward, a 501(c)4 nonprofit, was formed as the transition team, working with Keystone Center as facilitator. Polis was sworn in on January 8, 2019.<sup>[56]</sup> An effort to recall Polis and other Democratic elected officials failed to submit any signatures; Polis said of the effort, "Recalls should not be used for partisan gamesmanship".<sup>[57]</sup>

## Political positions

### Education

In 2011 Polis, along with Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT), introduced the 2011 Race to the Top Act (H.R. 1532). The legislation authorized old provisions and some new ones including: new standards to encourage and reward states based on their implementation of comprehensive educational reforms that innovate through 4-year competitive grants that allow more funding to expand [Charter schools](#) and compensate teachers in part based on their students' performance.<sup>[58][59][60]</sup>

Polis has sponsored other education bills and legislation regarding students including;

- The SLICE (School Lunch Improvements for Children's Education) Act, in response to Congress redefining pizza as a vegetable.<sup>[61]</sup> The SLICE Act would require healthier meals for students, which would, for example, allow the USDA to accurately count 1/8 of a cup of tomato paste as 1/8 of a cup, instead of half of a cup, which is what qualifies pizza as a vegetable; allow the USDA to implement science-based sodium reduction targets; and, allow the USDA to set a whole grain requirement.<sup>[62]</sup> The SLICE Act is opposed by The Food Institute saying that it, "all but removes foods made with tomato paste from school cafeterias, in spite of the significant nutritional value offered by tomato paste."<sup>[63]</sup> But Polis says, "Pizza has a place in school meals, but equating it with broccoli, carrots and celery seriously undermines this nation's efforts to support children's health." Polis adds that *Agribusiness* should never dictate the quality of school meals.<sup>[64]</sup>
- The Defending Special Education Students and Families Act, which fully funds the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) (IDEA). IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention for special education.<sup>[65]</sup> In the original bill, IDEA promised to pay 40% of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities, but that funding provision hasn't been fulfilled and only covers 16% of special-education funding and has never funded more than 30%.<sup>[66]</sup> Polis's bill suggests cutting excess and wasteful [Pentagon](#) spending, by cutting \$18.8 billion in [weapons systems](#) over five years.<sup>[67]</sup>

Polis has also introduced the Computer Science Education Act, which helps provide job training for computing jobs, and the ACE Act, which would provide funding to improve outcomes for students in persistently low-performing schools, and to authorize school "turnaround grants."<sup>[68][69]</sup>

In 2015, during a back-and-forth exchange before the House Education and Workforce Committee's Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, Polis argued for schools to be able to use lower standards of evidence when deciding to expel students accused of sexual assault by stating, "If there are 10 people who have been accused, and under a reasonable likelihood standard maybe one or two did it, it seems better to get rid of all 10 people."<sup>[70]</sup> Shortly after the comments, Polis said that he misspoke during the subcommittee hearing and that he committed a major gaffe during the discussion.<sup>[71]</sup>

### Foreign policy



Polis with President Donald Trump and Doug Burgum in May 2020

## Iraq

Polis opposed the Iraq War saying that, "The invasion of Iraq was a colossal mistake and I opposed the war from the very beginning. Bush's blunders, and the Democrats who gave him cover along the way, have left us without easy solutions for improving the situation."<sup>[72]</sup> During a congressional trip to Iraq, Polis praised the "Sons of Iraq" policy, which funds former military and police officials under Saddam Hussein to lay down their arms against coalition forces, patrol neighborhoods, and fight against other Sunni insurgents. In an op-ed, he wrote, "If we had started this policy sooner after the invasion, we no doubt could have prevented loss of life. As can be expected, some of them turn out to be corrupt and attack us anyway, but most seem to be helping to keep the order. The challenge is to bring them into the fold of the new Iraqi government and a proper chain of command structure."<sup>[73]</sup>

In the op-ed, Polis also said, "The hippie in me bemoans the fact that we defeated the Iraqi military only to help them build an even stronger one that might one day be used against children and innocents, as often is the case. When will all the killing end? Where have all the flowers gone? And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and they shall study war no more."<sup>[74]</sup>

## Afghanistan

Polis supports removing all troops from Afghanistan.<sup>[75]</sup> In 2010, Polis supported a failed resolution to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan within 30 days, saying that "I don't believe that this ongoing occupation is in our national interest," and that, "I supported the initial action to oust the Taliban in Afghanistan, and that succeeded. The challenge we face now is a stateless menace."<sup>[76]</sup>

Polis also took a Congressional Delegation trip to Afghanistan, meeting with the former Afghan Interior Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar, US military officials and Diplomats. During his meeting with Mohammed Hanif Atmar, Polis focused on the education gap between Afghanistan and Western nations, the low literacy rate for Afghan police and military officials, and combating political corruption.<sup>[77]</sup> Polis has criticized expanding US troops in Afghanistan, and supports putting resources in intelligence and special operations. Polis said in a report after visiting Afghanistan that "We need all the high-level diplomatic support we can to master the diplomatic complexities of fighting against an enemy holed up in two countries, as well as navigating the complex regional politics", adding that, "Our best estimates show there to be no more than 5,000 al-Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They operate out of areas in southern and eastern Afghanistan and on the Pakistan/Afghanistan border. Do we really need to occupy an entire country of around 30 million people to root out 5,000 enemies? I harbor a deep degree of ambivalence about the military surge. The diplomatic surge is good, increasing our covert ops and intelligence abilities focused on al-Qaeda is good, but adding tens of thousands of American troops for years doesn't necessarily get us closer to defeating al-Qaeda."<sup>[78]</sup>

## Iran

Polis voted in favor of the 2010 Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act expanding economic sanctions against Iran under the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act, and co-sponsored H.R. 1327; the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009, authorizing state and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector.<sup>[79]</sup><sup>[80]</sup>

## Human rights

As a member of Congress, Polis, along with then-Representatives Barney Frank and Tammy Baldwin, called on the United States embassy in Iraq and then- United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to prioritize investigating the allegations of rape, torture and executions of LGBT Iraqis, saying "Such disturbing violations of human rights should not be ignored and the United States should not stand idly by while billions of taxpayer dollars are used to support their government."

Along with the support of 35 members of the House, Polis also called on the State Department to address violence against the LGBT community in Honduras.<sup>[81]</sup>

## Civil liberties

While in the House, Polis was an advocate for civil liberties, saying while campaigning in 2008 that "balance must be restored between the executive and the judicial branch (through restoring *habeas corpus*, and clarifying that the President does not have the Constitutional authority to alter legislation through signing statements,) and between the executive and the legislative branch (clarifying that the Fourth Amendment requires probable cause and a warrant for the government to monitor Americans)"<sup>[82]</sup>

## Patriot Act

Polis has been a vocal opponent of the PATRIOT ACT. In a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, Polis stated that the Patriot Act "is a bill that has been plagued with abuse since it was first passed, and today's rule is yet another example of short-circuiting the system that our Founding Fathers set up. If there were ever the need for the close supervision and congressional oversight of a law, it is a law that discusses how and under what conditions a government can spy on its own citizens."<sup>[83]</sup> On February 2011 Polis voted against H.R. 514, extending expiring provisions of the Patriot Act,



Polis (right) with California then Representative Xavier Becerra in Westminster, Colorado

authorizing court-approved roving wiretaps that permit surveillance on multiple phones, allowing court-approved seizure of records and property in anti-terrorism operations, and permitting surveillance against a so-called lone wolf, a non-US citizen engaged in terrorism who may not be part of a recognized terrorist group.<sup>[84][85]</sup>

### Internet piracy

Polis supports an open and free internet, and has been critical of SOPA, PIPA and CISPA, saying in an interview with *Forbes* that; "I oppose piracy and want to see intellectual property protected because that is what fosters and rewards innovation. But SOPA won't accomplish a meaningful reduction in piracy and causes massive collateral damage to the Internet ecosystem."<sup>[86]</sup> While debating SOPA on the House floor Polis said that SOPA and PIPA "directly threaten the very internet that has brought humanity great prosperity and greater peace," and that, "Allowing the military and NSA to spy on Americans on American soil goes against every principle this country was founded on."<sup>[87][88]</sup> Polis, along with 167 other members of the House, voted against CISPA.<sup>[89]</sup>

Polis, along with representatives Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and Darrell Issa (R-CA), sponsored *Aaron's Law*,<sup>[90]</sup> in the wake of the suicide of computer programmer and internet activist Aaron Swartz, (the co-founder of Reddit), who was facing computer and wire fraud charges and more than 30 years in prison and fines of over \$1 million for violating the terms of service for illegally downloading academic journal articles from the digital library JSTOR.<sup>[91]</sup> The proposed bill would exclude terms of service violations from the 1986 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and from the wire fraud statute.<sup>[92][93]</sup> Polis said that the charges brought on by US Attorney Carmen Ortiz were "ridiculous and trumped-up," and that "It's absurd that he was made a scapegoat. I would hope that this doesn't happen to anyone else."<sup>[94]</sup>

### NDAA

Polis voted against the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, and is against Section 1021, which has drawn controversy about implications to detention policy.<sup>[95]</sup> After the law was signed, Polis, along with other members of the house, introduced legislation to repeal the indefinite detention provision. Though legislation has failed to pass the house, Section 1021 is now pending in the courts.<sup>[96]</sup>

### Cannabis

Polis supports the legalization of cannabis, saying in 2011, "Just as the policy of prohibition failed nationally with alcohol—it's now up to states and counties—I think we should do the same with marijuana."<sup>[97]</sup> Legislation he has introduced includes the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act in 2013,<sup>[98]</sup> the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act in 2015,<sup>[99]</sup> and the McClintock–Polis amendment in 2015 (to prevent federal interference in states that have legalized medical or recreational use; it failed 206–222).<sup>[100]</sup> He was also an original cosponsor of the *Marijuana Justice Act* that was first introduced in the House in 2018.<sup>[101]</sup> In February 2017, Polis launched the *Congressional Cannabis Caucus* along with Representatives Don Young, Earl Blumenauer, and Dana Rohrabacher.<sup>[102]</sup>

### LGBT rights

At the time of his departure from Congress, Polis was one of seven openly gay members of the 113th Congress, and caucused in the LGBT Equality Caucus. Polis pushed for the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, and praised the Obama Administration's decision for the Justice Department to no longer defend DOMA, saying that "Section 3 of the law is unconstitutional."<sup>[103]</sup> In a statement Polis said, "I applaud the Administration for finally recognizing what my colleagues and I have long criticized, to deny people the ability to officially acknowledge their relationship and feel welcomed as partners only for being LGBT is absurd and today's decision confirms this".<sup>[104]</sup> Polis has also credited President Obama for openly endorsing gay marriage calling it "welcome news to American families."<sup>[105]</sup>

Polis was an original cosponsor of H.R. 116, or the *Respect for Marriage Act*. H.R. 116 repeals DOMA allowing marriage recognition for gay and lesbian couples in the US, the District of Columbia, and US territories.<sup>[106]</sup>

Polis was also the leading sponsor of the Student Non-Discrimination Act with Senator Al Franken (D-MN), who introduced the act in the Senate. SNDA would establish a comprehensive federal non-discrimination prohibition in all public and elementary and secondary schools based on sexual orientation and gender identity, expanding Title IX of the Education Amendments Act to LGBT students.<sup>[107]</sup> In a statement, Polis said "education is the right of every student" regardless of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. "The alarming increase in teen suicides has shown us just how far we are from making our children's schools safe spaces."<sup>[108]</sup> The SNDA has 167 co-sponsors in the House, with only two Republicans signing on.<sup>[109]</sup> SNDA is also supported by the ACLU and *Change.org*.<sup>[10]</sup>

Polis voted for the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, which prohibited openly gay and lesbian members of the Military from serving.<sup>[111]</sup> Along with 67 members of the House, in a letter to President Obama, Polis urged for the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. In the letter it cited a California district judge's ruling of the unconstitutionality of DADT, and the 14,000 service members that have been discharged from the military since the passage of DADT.<sup>[112]</sup>

In a press release on the repeal of DADT Polis said: "The repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell is a victory for the cause of equality and our national defense. For too long, this wrongheaded policy prevented brave Americans from serving in our military and defending our country just because of who they love. It undermined our national security by forcing gays and lesbians out of the military service at a time when America needs the most talented and the bravest protecting us, regardless of their orientation."<sup>[113]</sup>

Polis was also a supporter and cosponsor of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, giving adequate funding and ability to federal authorities to investigate hate crimes, and has advocated for protections against LGBT victims of domestic violence to be included in the Violence Against Women Act.<sup>[114][115]</sup>

In September 2014, Polis filed a discharge petition to bring the LGBT Employment Non-Discrimination Act to the floor of the House of Representatives for a proper vote. Representatives Garamendi, Holt, and Connolly joined Polis in support in filing the petition. The revised legislation includes narrow religious exemptions.<sup>[116]</sup>

Polis urged President Obama to reconsider the inclusion of Malaysia and Brunei in a Trans-Pacific Partnership because of their negative record on LGBT rights.<sup>[117]</sup>

## Immigration

On May 29, 2019, Polis signed House Bill 1124 immediately prohibiting law enforcement officials in Colorado from holding undocumented immigrants solely on the basis of a request from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.<sup>[118]</sup>

## Bitcoin

In May 2014, Polis became the first U.S. representative to accept campaign donations via Bitcoin.<sup>[119]</sup>

## Energy

In 2014, Polis sponsored two ballot measures targeting hydraulic fracturing, Initiatives 88 and 89. Polis sought to move fracking from 500 feet (150 m) from people's homes to 2,000 feet (610 m) to improve the quality of life for homeowners in affected areas.<sup>[120]</sup> On August 4, 2014, Polis announced that he would withdraw his support for the two ballot measures.<sup>[121]</sup>

## Campus rape

In September 2015, Polis voiced support for altering university disciplinary processes surrounding campus rape to allow for cases to be judged against a reasonable likelihood standard, saying that: "If there are 10 people who have been accused, and under a reasonable likelihood standard maybe one or two did it, it seems better to get rid of all 10 people ... we're not talking about depriving them of life or liberty, we're talking about them being transferred to another university, for crying out loud."<sup>[122]</sup> After being criticized<sup>[123]</sup> for these remarks, Polis apologized, saying that: "I went too far by implying that I support expelling innocent students from college campuses, which is something neither I nor other advocates of justice for survivors of sexual assault support".<sup>[124]</sup>

## Food

Polis has shown interest in the regulatory environment relating to kombucha.<sup>[125][126][127]</sup> He co-sponsored a bill that would have legalized the interstate shipment of raw milk.<sup>[128]</sup>

## Personal life

Polis is one of the few people to be openly gay when first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.<sup>[129]</sup> and the first gay parent in Congress.<sup>[130][131][132]</sup> Polis and his partner, Marlon Reis, have a son and a daughter, born in 2011 and 2014, respectively.<sup>[133][134][135]</sup>

In June 2019, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, an event widely considered a watershed moment in the modern LGBTQ rights movement, *Queerty* named him one of the *Pride50* "trailblazing individuals who actively ensure society remains moving towards equality, acceptance and dignity for all queer people".<sup>[136]</sup>

Polis enjoys video games such as *League of Legends*, and his favorite champions include Maokai and Anivia.<sup>[137]</sup> He is Jewish.<sup>[138][139]</sup> Polis is also an avid Colorado Rockies and Denver Broncos fan.<sup>[140][141]</sup>



Polis (center) with his partner, Marlon Reis (left), and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House

## Electoral history

Colorado gubernatorial election, 2018 <sup>[142]</sup>				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
<b>Democratic</b>	<b>Jared Polis</b>	<b>1,348,888</b>	<b>53.42%</b>	<b>+4.12%</b>
Republican	Walker Stapleton	1,080,801	42.80%	-3.15%
Libertarian	Scott Heiker	69,519	2.75%	+0.81%
Unity	Bill Hammons	25,854	1.02%	N/A
<b>Total votes</b>		<b>2,525,062'</b>	<b>'100.0%</b>	N/A
<b>Democratic hold</b>				

U.S. House, 2nd District of Colorado (General Election) <sup>[143][144]</sup>												
Year	Winning candidate	Party	Pct	Opponent	Party	Pct	Opponent	Party	Pct	Opponent	Party	Pct
2008	<b>Jared Polis</b>	Democratic	62%	Scott Starin	Republican	33%	J. A. Calhoun	Green	2%			
2010	<b>Jared Polis</b>	Democratic	57%	Stephen Bailey	Republican	37%	Jenna Goss	Constitution	2%			
2012	<b>Jared Polis</b>	Democratic	55%	Kevin Lundberg	Republican	38%	Randy Luallin	Libertarian	3%	Susan P. Hall	Green	2%
2014	<b>Jared Polis</b>	Democratic	56%	George Leing	Republican	44%						
2016	<b>Jared Polis</b>	Democratic	57.9%	Nic Morse	Republican	37.2%	Richard Longstreth	Libertarian	5.9%			

## See also

- Congressional Progressive Caucus
- Libertarian Democrat
- List of Jewish members of the United States Congress
- List of LGBT members of the United States Congress
- List of openly LGBT heads of government
- List of the first LGBT holders of political offices in the United States

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## External links

- Governor Jared Polis (<http://www.colorado.gov/governor/>) official government site
- Jared Polis for Colorado (<http://polisforcolorado.com/>) official campaign website
- Jared Polis ([https://curlie.org/Regional/North\\_America/United\\_States/Colorado/Government/Federal/US\\_House\\_of\\_Representatives/Jared\\_Polis\\_%5BD-2%5D](https://curlie.org/Regional/North_America/United_States/Colorado/Government/Federal/US_House_of_Representatives/Jared_Polis_%5BD-2%5D)) at Curlie

- Biography (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=P000598>) at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
  - Profile (<https://www.votesmart.org/candidate/106220>) at Vote Smart
  - Financial information (federal office) (<https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/H8CO02137>) at the Federal Election Commission
  - Appearances (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?jaredpolis>) on C-SPAN

Educational offices		
<div> <div> <div>Preceded by</div> <div><b>Ben Alexander</b></div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Member of the Colorado State Board of Education</div> <div>from the at-large district</div> <div>2001–2007</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Seat abolished</div> </div> </div>
U.S. House of Representatives		
<div> <div> <div>Preceded by</div> <div><b>Mark Udall</b></div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Member of the U.S. House of Representatives</div> <div>from Colorado's 2nd congressional district</div> <div>2009–2019</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Succeeded by</div> <div><b>Joe Neguse</b></div> </div> </div>
Party political offices		
<div> <div> <div>Preceded by</div> <div><b>John Hickenlooper</b></div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Democratic nominee for Governor of Colorado</div> <div>2018</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Most recent</div> </div> </div>
Political offices		
<div> <div> <div>Preceded by</div> <div><b>John Hickenlooper</b></div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Governor of Colorado</div> <div>2019–present</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Incumbent</div> </div> </div>
U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)		
<div> <div> <div>Preceded by</div> <div><b>Mike Pence</b></div> <div>as <i>Vice President</i></div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Order of Precedence of the United States</div> <div>Within Colorado</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Succeeded by</div> <div><b>Mayor of city</b></div> <div>in which event is held</div> </div> </div>
		<div> <div> <div>Succeeded by</div> <div><b>Otherwise Nancy Pelosi</b></div> <div>as <i>Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives</i></div> </div> </div>
<div> <div> <div>Preceded by</div> <div><b>Pete Ricketts</b></div> <div>as <i>Governor of Nebraska</i></div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Order of Precedence of the United States</div> <div>Outside Colorado</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Succeeded by</div> <div><b>Doug Burgum</b></div> <div>as <i>Governor of North Dakota</i></div> </div> </div>

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